

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10419

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: CONSUL BALIAO CHARGES MAOIST INFILTRATION OF
U.S. BASED PHIL CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUP

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS PLAYS STORY ON DENUNCIATION OF
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN
THE PHILIPPINES (NCRCLP) BY FORMER ACTING PHILCONGEN BALIAO
AS MAOIST INFILTRATED. FIRST STORIES APPEARED AFTER TRIP TO
UNITED STATES BY PRIMITIVO MIJARES AND BALIAO'S YOUNGER
BROTHER. PROBABLY PURPOSE OF STORIES IS TO DISCREDIT NCRCLP
ON EVE OF ITS PLANNED SEPTEMBER 21 DEMONSTRATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PHILIPPINE PRESS GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO LOS ANGELES DATE-
LINED STORY THAT FORMER ACTING PHIL CONSUL GENERAL IN L.A.
RUPERTO BALIAO HAS CHARGED THAT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
(NCRCLP) HAS BEEN INFILTRATED BY MAOIST COMMUNIST ELEMENTS
WITH DIRECT LINKS TO THE PHILIPPINE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.
HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAYAAN ORGANIZATION
WHICH HE STATED WAS OPENLY SUPPORTING THE NEW PEOPLE'S
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ARMY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. THOUGH HE REPORTEDLY ADMITS THAT HE HAD SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE NCRCLP AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 1972, BALIAO STATES THAT WHEN HE DEFECTED ON MAY 19, 1973, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR HIS DEFECTION WAS THE BELIEF THAT MARCOS' PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL LAW HAD SOMEHOW STRENGTHENED THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES. ON THIS PREMISE, HE TOOK ACTIVE PART IN A CAMPAIGN AIMED AT THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES. BALIAO GOES ON TO SAY THAT HIS DISCOVERY OF THE INFILTRATION OF THE NCRCLP BY MAOIST ELEMENTS HAS NOW COMPELLED HIM TO LEAVE THAT ORGANIZATION, SINCE "IF I WERE MADE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PRESIDENT MARCOS AND THE COMMUNISTS TO GOVERN OUR PEOPLE IN THE PHILIPPINES, I WILL HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT HAVING MARCOS A HUNDRED TIMES OVER."

3. THE PRESS STORIES QUOTE FROM A FORMAL STATEMENT, SUPPOSEDLY RELEASED BY BALIAO (TEXT BY AIRGRAM) AND FROM EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER REPORTEDLY SENT BY BALIAO TO SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON. ATTRIBUTION OF THESE STORIES IS TO PHILIPPINES OVERSEAS INFORMATION AND NEWS TRUST (POINT) WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS A NEWLY-ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED NEWS AGENCY.

4. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT MEDIA ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PRIMITIVO MIJARES AND BALIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER, VICENTE BALIAO, RETURNED ON SEPTEMBER 10 FROM A BRIEF VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN SUCH A STATEMENT FROM BALIAO FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCREDITING THE NCRCLP. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN FACT, BALIAO STATEMENTS WERE WRITTEN BY PRIMITIVO MIJARES. THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST STORY ON THIS SUBJECT OCCURRED IN THE DAILY EXPRESS ON THE DAY AFTER MIJARES' RETURN.

5. COMMENT: MARCOS IS KNOWN TO BE QUITE SENSITIVE ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NCRCLP; AND ABOUT PRESS TREATMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. IT SEEMS PROBABLY THAT THE RELEASE OF THESE STORIES WAS TIMED TO DISCREDIT THE NCRCLP ON THE EVE OF ITS PLANNED ANTI-MARCOS RALLIES

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IN THE UNITED STATES; ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL LAW ON SEPTEMBER 21.

SULLIVAN

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